

North Gains Undisputed Crown

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NORTH CONTINUES

Three Area Casaba Squads To End League Campaigns

League basketball action will draw to a close tomorrow night with three Torrance squads facing their final game of the season.

North High will be the only area quintet to continue. The Saxons will warm up for Tuesday's CIF encounter with Mayfair by hosting Leuzinger the second best five in the Sky League.

The Saxons will travel to Mayfair for the 8 p.m. tilt

against the high-scoring Suburban League champions who have been averaging 90 points per game in recent contests.

Leuzinger will be attempting to snap a 12-game North winning streak. The Saxons are unbeaten in league competition and own an 86-48 win over Leuzinger.

West will attempt to snap a four-game losing streak against visiting Lawndale on the Torrance High court. The War-

rriors must depend on guard Dan Thomas for scoring and 6-2 center John Cochran for rebounding. The Warriors own a 3-6 loop mark and still could tie for third if Torrance falters against Lawndale.

TORRANCE WILL be attempting to hold its third place slot against the Cardinals at 8 p.m. THS must rebound from a disappointing effort against El Segundo on Tuesday that knocked it out of a possible CIF bid.

Lawndale has never beaten Torrance and the Cards feel now may be their big opportunity. The Tartars are noticeably down after turning in one of their poorest performances against 'Gundo.

El Camino College must beat hosting Bakersfield tomorrow to keep alive hopes of a first division Metropolitan Conference berth. The Warriors now own a 4-7 circuit record after a loss to Santa Monica on Tuesday.

CAMINO OWNS an 81-75 decision over the Renegades. In the first game, Jim Lloyd popped in 22 points and grabbed 24 rebounds while Clark Canfield potted 26 markers and Jim Brennan collected 16 digits.

South High will close its Bay League campaign against hapless Santa Monica tomorrow on the Viking court. The Spartans have already clinched a third place finish and forward Don Denson has nabbed high-scoring honors for the South Bay area.

THS Falls To Eagles In Crucial

Torrance High's casaba squad picked the worst possible time to turn in its poorest performance of the year.

The Tartars performed shoddily Tuesday afternoon, dropped a 57-42 decision to El Segundo, and lost a chance for a CIF playoff bid.

Dependable Mike Hatter, with 14 points, was the only man to connect in double figures as Torrance blundered through three ice-cold periods before coming to life.

IF TORRANCE had beaten the second-place Eagles, the Tartars would still have had a chance to finish in the runner-up slot and gain a CIF position.

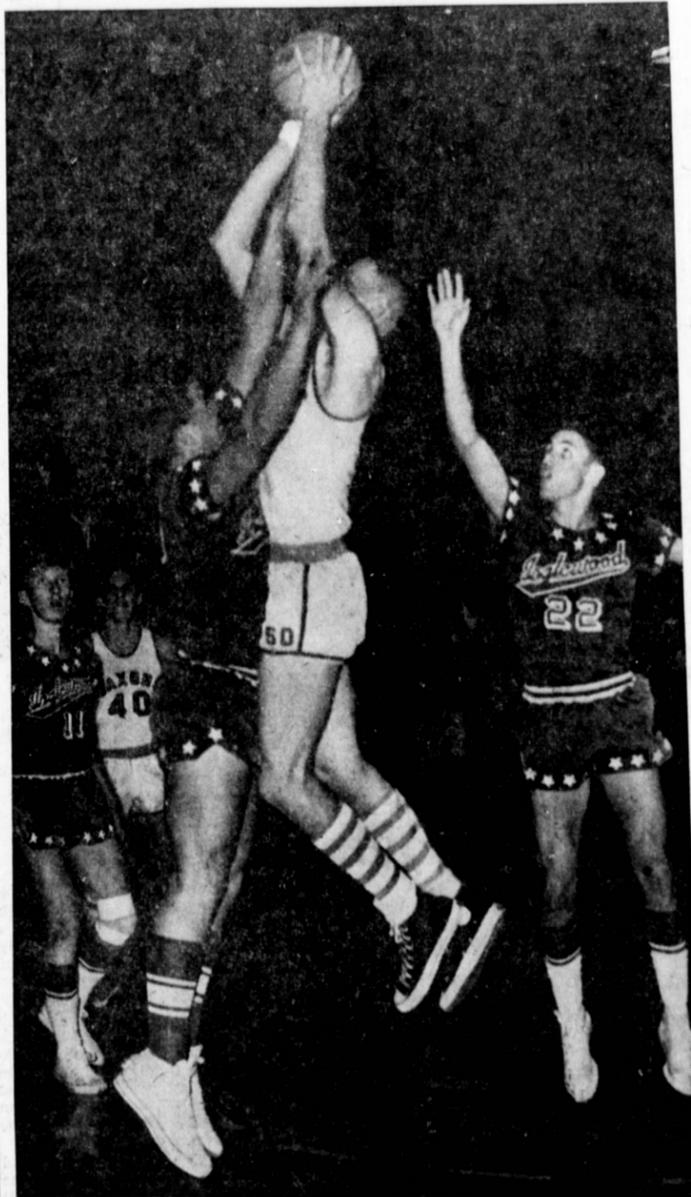
It was not to be, however, as 'Gundo rattled off to a 16-4 first period lead and still maintained a 24-13 edge by intermission. In the third quarter, El Segundo pushed its edge to 34-19. The Eagles then matched Torrance's frantic 23-point outburst in the closing stanza.

Tartar mentor Will Boerger called the game a "generally poor performance by everybody. We just were not ready. I could tell before the game."

El Segundo was very much ready and four Eagle starters wound up in double figures. Ralph Spargo flicked up 14 points while Steve Wright added 12. Randy Specht contributed 11 and Bill Sligar potted 10. Dave Williams, the fifth 'Gundo starter, deposited 9 points through the hoops.

IT WAS A far drop from Hatter's 14 points to the next-highest Tartar gunner, Reserves Keith Patton and Gary White were next in the scoring line with six points. Usually high-scoring Walt Hale could manage only one bucket and four points.

Instead of battling for a CIF berth, Torrance now must fight to maintain its third place position. Cross-town rival West High is only one game behind the Tartars, and a West win tomorrow night coupled with a Torrance loss to Lennox would place the teams in a third-place deadlock.



CLOSE DEFENSE . . . An unidentified Inglewood player fouls North High center Al Lepper in the act of shooting Tuesday afternoon as Bob Osbrink (22) comes up too late and Charles Louden (11) and Terry Tierney (40) watch. Lepper poured in 24 points to pace North to its 12th straight win and undisputed possession of the Sky League championship. The Saxons now boast a 21-5 season mark, bettering the old school record of 20-6 set in 1961. North will meet Mayfair Tuesday night in the opening round of the CIF playoffs. (Herald Photo)

Saxons Nudge Sents

North High put a little icing on its Sky League basketball championship Tuesday afternoon at the expense of a game Inglewood quintet.

The Saxons, who had already clinched a tie for the crown, became the first school in Torrance's CIF history to win an undisputed league championship by hanging a 74-62 defeat on the Sentinels.

Victory left the Saxons with a 21-5 season record and gave North its 12th consecutive triumph. The last North defeat came in the semi-finals of the Compton Tournament when Long Beach Poly, the CIF's top-rated team, came out winner.

PLAYING SLUGGISH ball in apparent anticipation of next week's CIF playoffs, North was unable to sew up Tuesday's win until more than half way through the final period.

Several times early in the game North threatened to break matters wide open, but each time Inglewood came back. At halftime, the Sentinels trailed only 34-30.

The margin remained at four during most of the third stanza until only two minutes remained. Then twice, before the final quarter got underway, Inglewood cut the North edge to one point before falling back.

It was all North in the closing eight minutes as guard Terry Tierney, forward Mike Gratzke and center Ron Taylor pushed the Saxons out of reach.

Big Al Lepper flipped in 24 points to top all scorers while Gratzke added 21, Tierney contributed 14 and Taylor stuffed in 10.

CHARLES LOUDEN dropped in 20 points for Inglewood, 10 coming in the final quarter on outside shots. Tom Bristow added 12 for the losers.

The season victory total established a new North record. In 1961, a team composed of Bob Mance, Sam Edwards, Sparky Davidson, Rick Jacobs and Jack Golphenece chalked up a 20-6 slate and finished second in the Bay League to Inglewood.

Thomas Cans 20 But West Loses

Driving West High guard Dan Thomas flipped 20 long-range points at Lennox Tuesday afternoon, but it was not enough to stop the Lancers from picking up a 67-64 overtime Pioneer League victory.

Thomas canned 12 points in the third quarter to bring West back from a three-point half-time deficit, but he ran out of steam in the last stanza and the Warriors eventually dropped their fourth straight game.

Forward Rich Hall canned 15 points and Dan Gala added 14 more for West. Center John Cochran dumped in 9 markers and hauled down 26 rebounds.

West held a six-point lead with six minutes left before Lennox exploded to knot the count at 59-59 when regulation play came to a halt.

Hendrix Boars doubled his season scoring average, dump-

ing in 14 points, to top the Lancers. Rod Finch canned 13 markers and center Steve Smith added 11 more.

Lennox jumped out to a 16-9 first quarter lead and held a 30-17 bulge at intermission. Behind a 12-point surge by Thomas, West went ahead, 44-39, after 24 minutes had elapsed. A 20-point Lennox outburst in the final stanza cut short West's bid for victory.

Thomas was magnificent in defeat as he moved his scoring average near the 20-point mark. The 5-9 guard totaled all of his points from outside.

Gala was dead-end accurate from the charity line in recording his 14 points. He dropped in 12 of 12 free throw attempts to collect his second-highest scoring output of the almost ended campaign.

South Nabs Fifth Bay League Win

Even scoring balance pushed South High to a 59-47 Bay League casaba triumph over hapless Hawthorne Tuesday afternoon and left the Spartans in third place behind Mira Costa and Redondo.

Forward Don Denson, the area's leading scorer, finished with 19 points, slightly below his season average, but still topped all gunners.

Denson's usual 20-plus points were not needed against the cold-shooting Cougars. Hawthorne could drop in only 15 buckets, and in the first half, the Cougars potted only three shots from the field.

Guard Byron Schweigert backed up Denson with 11 markers and Steve Boggs came off the bench to add 10 points.

The Spartans wound up with 23 field goals and connected on 13 of 22 charity tosses. Hawthorne managed to hit on 17 of 27 free throws.

Bill Tharp potted 15 points, five above his league average, and Bob Damon added 12 for the Cougars.

South led all the way after jumping into a 12-4 first quarter lead and a 32-15 bulge at intermission. Hawthorne came slightly alive after halftime and outscored South, 16-14, in the third quarter and 16-13 in the final stanza.

Victory left South with a 15-11 mark for the season and 5-4 for the Bay League campaign. Despite what happens tomorrow night against Santa Monica, the Spartans will finish in third place.

The big battle left in the circuit is for first place. Mira Costa, with a one-game lead over Redondo, will meet the Sea Hawks tomorrow night in the deciding tilt. Micohi upset Redondo when the two quintets met earlier in the season.

Samo Surprises Warrior Cagers

El Camino's chances for a first-division Metropolitan Conference cage finish received a good-sized setback Tuesday afternoon against Santa Monica City College.

Three men hit in double figures for the Corsairs to help overcome a booming 30-point effort by tiny Camino guard Bob Garcia and give Samo an 81-73 triumph.

Bruce Knybel canned 22 markers, Frank White added 20 and Mike O'Brien contributed 18 as Santa Monica proved it could get along without Tom Dunlap, the conference's leading scorer, who is out with a broken wrist.

Garcia enjoyed his finest night as a Warrior via his 30-

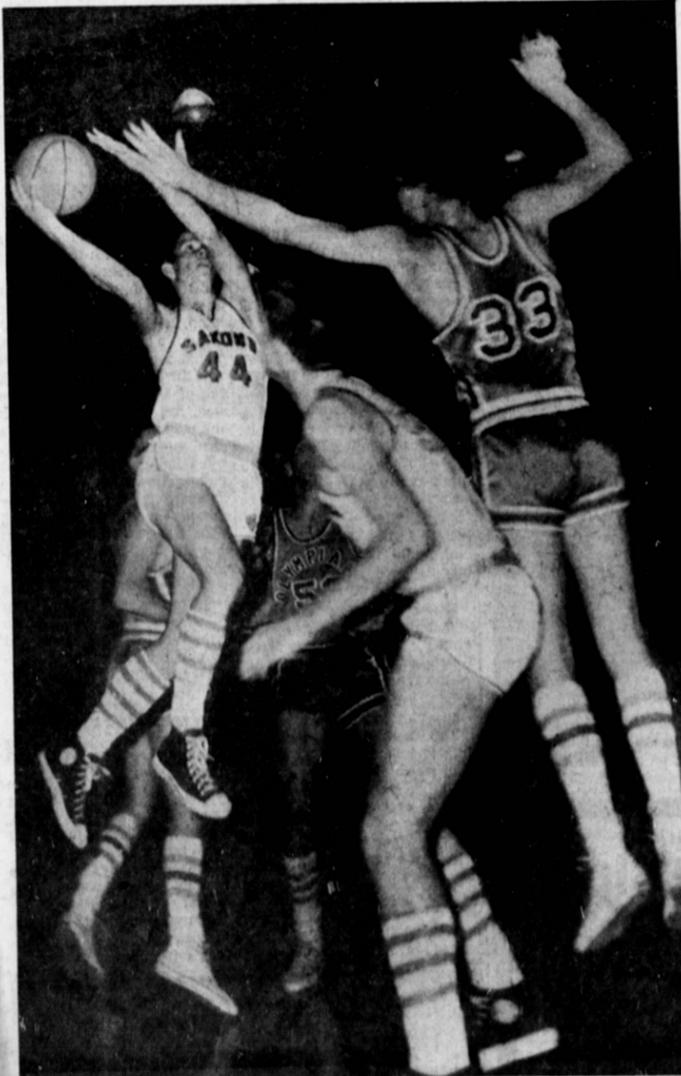
point output. Jim Brennan carded 18 markers and Jim Lloyd added 11 to back up Garcia.

Defeat left Camino with a 4-7 Metro record with three conference games remaining to be played.

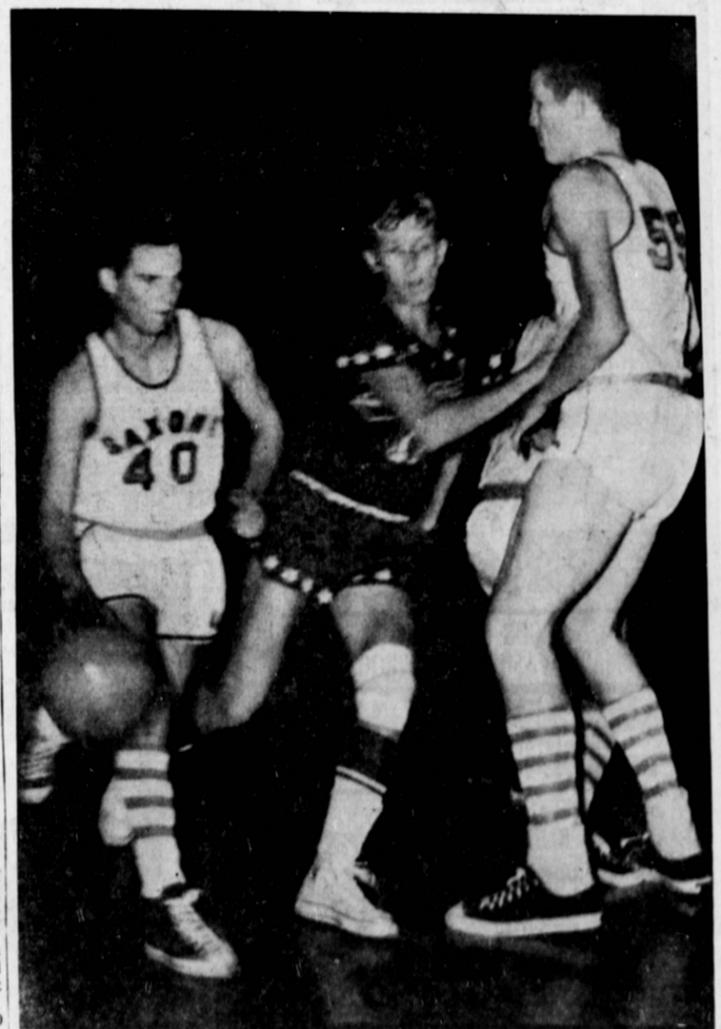
Ed Palmquist, starting in place of injured Clark Canfield at forward, contributed eight points.

Lloyd opened instead of 6-10 center Dan Caton, who had temporarily displaced the former Aviation High ace.

Victory was sweet revenge for Santa Monica. In a first round meeting, with Dunlap in the lineup, the Vikings had been upset by Camino.



HIGH SCORER . . . Forward Mike Gratzke drives for two points in an early-season Sky League contest against Leuzinger despite the objections of John Hiles (33), the loop's leading scorer. Gratzke gunned in 21 points Tuesday when North clinched the circuit championship. North and Leuzinger will meet tomorrow night in the final league clash of the year. (Herald Photo)



HARD GOING . . . Inglewood's Charles Louden finds it's a little difficult to follow North High guard Terry Tierney during Tuesday's Sky League contest. Louden's way is blocked by 6-9 North center Ron Taylor. Tierney contributed 14 points for North while Taylor added 10. Louden topped Inglewood with a 20 point effort and flipped in 10 markers during the final quarter of play. The Saxons picked up the first CIF league championship in Torrance history with a 4-62 win over the Sentinels. (Herald Photo)